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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/062,135	02/01/2002	Dao Hinh Nguyen	0019-8	2513
7590	03/10/2004		EXAMINER VALENTIN, JUAN D	
Ernest D. Buff Ernest D. Buff & Associates, LLC 245 South Street Morristown, NJ 07960			ART UNIT 2877	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/062,135	Applicant(s) NGUYEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Juan D Valentin II	Art Unit 2877	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6, 9-13, 19, 20, 23-37, 43 and 46-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5, 7, 8, 14-18, 21, 22, 38-42, 44 and 45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet **within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited.** The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the

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reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being fully anticipated by Sebastian et al. (USPN '321, hereinafter Sebastian).

Claim 1

Sebastian discloses a method of removing a detectable portion of a pre-selected contraband substance present on a surface, comprising illuminating said surface with light emitted from an infrared laser, said illumination having sufficient intensity and duration to cause selective ablation of molecules of said contraband substance without substantially damaging said surface (col. 13, lines 20-62).

Claim 1 reads in lines 3-4 “to cause selective ablation of **molecules** of said contraband substance”, it can be seen in Applicants remarks on 12/15/2003 that Sebastian clearly still reads on the claim language as currently claimed. Applicants remarks read (page 12, lines 11-13) “whereas thermal desorption of vapors as disclosed by Sebastian et al. entails only the removal of individual atoms or **molecules** of a substance”, further see , e.g., Leonid V. Zhigilei et al., “Molecular Dynamcis Model for Laser Ablation and Desorption of Organic Solids”, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 19997, 101, pp. 2028-2037, submitted by Applicant 12/15/2003, especially page 2028, first column, first paragraph, lines 6-8 which state, “In mass spectrometry laser ablation is used to produce big nonvolatile organic **molecules** or ions in the **gas phase** for subsequent mass-spectrometric investigations”, which is what Sebastian clearly discloses. Therefore, it is the position of the Office that the illumination of Sebastian results in ablation as shown above.

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Claim 2

Sebastian discloses the use of a continuous infrared beam (col. 10, lines 48-52).

Examiner maintains that Sebastian discloses a continuous infrared beam.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sebastian.

Claim 6

Sebastian discloses the claimed invention except for the actual specific spot size (spot focusing) data. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to experimentally adjust the lasing and laser beam parameters, since it has been held that the provision of adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art.

The specific spot size needed in order to achieve a desired result in laser ablation/laser desorption is common and well known to somebody of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicants claimed invention. For prior art disclosure that shows a desirability to change the spot size, see Williams et al. (USPN '870) which shows that changing the laser spot size on a target changes the laser power density at the target surface in laser ablation system. Further, a

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spot size that spans a specific range deems adjustment dependant on the desired outcome which one wishes to achieve.

4. Claims 9-20, 23-43, 46-66, & 68 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sebastian in view of Megerle (USPN '977 B2).

Claims 9-11

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show wherein said contraband substance comprises an explosive, a narcotic, or a chemical agent. Megerle shows that it is known to provide a contraband substance comprising an explosive, a narcotic, or a chemical agent (abstract) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the security system for detecting an explosive, a narcotic, or a chemical agent of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Megerle discloses a technique used to detect organic vapors in air in order to detect explosives and chemical warfare agents (col. 23, lines 33-35). Sebastian discloses (col. 3, lines 32-36) characterizing chemical compositions of surfaces, being capable of detecting organic contaminants.

Claim 12

Sebastian discloses in conjunction with Fig. 3, a method of detecting the presence of a pre-selected contraband substance on a surface (B) of an object comprising the steps of illuminating an interrogation area of said surface with a beam of light emitted from an infrared laser, said illumination having sufficient intensity and duration to cause selective desorption of molecules of said contraband substance present on said surface without substantially damaging

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said surface (col. 13, lines 20-62). Sebastian discloses collecting at least a portion of said desorbed molecules in a collection system and analyzing said portion in a chemical analysis system, the system being associated with said collection system and comprising a detector responsive to the presence in said chemical analysis system of said contraband substance (col. 9, line 37-col. 10, line 37).

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show outputting an electrical signal representative of said presence of said contraband substance and activating signal means operably connected to said chemical analysis system in response to the output of said electrical signal. Megerle shows that it is known to provide an electrical signal representative of said presence of said contraband substance and activating signal means in response to the output of said electrical signal (col. 26, lines 27-39) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the security system that outputs a electronic signal to a visual alarm when a contraband substance is detected of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Claim 12 reads in lines 4-5 “to cause selective ablation of molecules of said contraband substance” and further in line 7 “collecting at least a portion of said desorbed molecules in a collection system”, it can be seen in Applicants remarks on 12/15/2003 that Sebastian clearly still reads on the claim language as currently claimed. Applicants remarks read (page 12, lines 11-13) “whereas thermal desorption of vapors as disclosed by Sebastian et al. entails only the removal of individual atoms or molecules of a substance”, further see, e.g., Leonid V. Zhigilei et al., “Molecular Dynamcis Model for Laser Ablation and Desorption of Organic Solids”, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 19997, 101, pp. 2028-2037, submitted by Applicant 12/15/2003, especially page 2028,

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first column, first paragraph, lines 6-8 which state, "In mass spectrometry laser ablation is used to produce big nonvolatile organic **molecules** or ions in the **gas phase** for subsequent mass-spectrometric investigations", which is what Sebastian clearly discloses. Therefore, it is the position of the Office that the illumination of Sebastian results in ablation as shown above.

Claim 13

Sebastian in view of Megerle discloses the use of a continuous infrared beam (col. 10, lines 48-52).

Examiner maintains that Sebastian discloses a continuous infrared beam.

Claims 19 & 20

Sebastian discloses the claimed invention except for the spot size range (spot focusing) data and fluence. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to experimentally adjust the lasing and laser beam parameters, since it has been held that the provision of adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art.

The specific spot size needed in order to achieve a desired result in laser ablation/laser desorption is common and well known to somebody of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicants claimed invention. For prior art disclosure that shows a desirability to change the spot size, see Williams et al. (USPN '870) which shows that changing the laser spot size on a target changes the laser power density at the target surface in laser ablation system. Further, a spot size that spans a specific range deems adjustment dependant on the desired outcome which one wishes to achieve.

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Claims 23-26

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show wherein said contraband substance comprises an explosive, an organo-nitro explosive, a narcotic, or a chemical agent. Megerle shows that it is known to provide a contraband substance comprising an explosive, an organo-nitro explosive (List of Explosive Materials), a narcotic, or a chemical agent (abstract) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the security system for detecting an explosive, a narcotic, or a chemical agent of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Claims 27-29

Official notice taken. It is the position of the Office that Pyrolysis electrochemical detectors and surface ionization detectors are common detectors in the field of contraband detection and in combination with the recited limitations of claim 12 do not distinguish patentability over prior art disclosure. Therefore, Applicant will be appreciated that the reference of Sebastian in view of Megerle reads on the claimed limitations. Sebastian discloses the use of GC/IMS detectors (col. 13, line 63-col. 14, line 6).

Claim 30

Sebastian discloses a method further comprising relative motion of said beam of light to illuminate an extended interrogation zone (Fig. 2). Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show a method further comprising relative motion of said object to illuminate an extended interrogation zone. Megerle shows that it is known to provide relative motion of said object (Fig. 9) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of

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ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the relative motion of said object of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Claim 31

Sebastian in view of Megerle disclose a method further comprising movably deflecting said light with an optically deflecting component to illuminate an extended interrogation zone (col. 4, line 60-col. 5, line 9).

Claim 32

Sebastian in view of Megerle discloses a method wherein said optically deflecting component is a rotating mirror (col. 4, line 60-col. 5, line 9). It is the position of the Office that the scanner optics taught by Sebastian which state, "Those of skill in this field will recognize that a **variety** of mechanical and electronic scanning devices and techniques may be utilized," read on the Applicants claimed limitations.

Claim 33

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show a method further comprising moving said object on a conveyer belt. Megerle shows that it is known to provide moving said object on a conveyer belt (Fig. 9) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the relative motion of said object of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Claim 34

Sebastian in view of Megerle disclose a method wherein said beam of light is raster scanned over said extended interrogation zone (col. 5, lines 6-8).

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Claim 35

Sebastian in view of Megerle discloses in conjunction with Fig. 2, a method further comprising displaying a mapping on a computer display terminal (3), said mapping being indicative of the locations at which a contraband substance has been detected (col. 9, line 37-col. 10, line 32).

Claim 36

Sebastian discloses an apparatus for non-destructively detecting the presence of a contraband substance on a surface of an object comprising an infrared laser adapted to emit light and an optical system adapted to deliver a beam of said light emitted from said infrared laser to illuminate an interrogation area of said surface, said illumination having sufficient intensity and of molecules of said duration to cause selective desorption contraband substance present on said surface without substantially damaging said surface (col. 13, lines 20-62). Sebastian discloses a collection system adapted to collect at least a portion of said desorbed molecules. Sebastian discloses a chemical analysis system associated with said collection system and having a detector responsive to the presence in said collection system of said desorbed molecules (col. 9, line 37-col. 10, line 37).

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show outputting an electrical signal representative of said presence of said contraband substance and activating signal means operably connected to said chemical analysis system in response to the output of said electrical signal. Megerle shows that it is known to provide an electrical signal representative of said presence of said contraband substance and activating signal means in response to the output of said electrical signal (col. 26, lines 27-39) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of

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Sebastian with the security system that outputs a electronic signal to a visual alarm when a contraband substance is detected of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Claim 36 reads in lines 6-7 “to cause selective ablation of molecules of said contraband substance” and further in line 9 “a collection system adapted to collect at least a portion of said desorbed molecules”, it can be seen in Applicants remarks on 12/15/2003 that Sebastian clearly still reads on the claim language as currently claimed. Applicants remarks read (page 12, lines 11-13) “whereas thermal desorption of vapors as disclosed by Sebastian et al. entails only the removal of individual atoms or molecules of a substance”, further see, e.g., Leonid V. Zhigilei et al., “Molecular Dynamcis Model for Laser Ablation and Desorption of Organic Solids”, *J. Phys. Chem. B* 19997, 101, pp. 2028-2037, submitted by Applicant 12/15/2003, especially page 2028, first column, first paragraph, lines 6-8 which state, “In mass spectrometry laser ablation is used to produce big nonvolatile organic molecules or ions in the gas phase for subsequent mass-spectrometric investigations”, which is what Sebastian clearly discloses. Therefore, it is the position of the Office that the illumination of Sebastian results in ablation as shown above.

Claim 37

Sebastian in view of Megerle discloses the use of a continuous infrared beam (col. 10, lines 48-52).

Examiner maintains that Sebastian discloses a continuous infrared beam.

Claim 43

Sebastian discloses the claimed invention except for the spot size range (spot focusing) data. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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was made to experimentally adjust the lasing and laser beam parameters, since it has been held that the provision of adjustability, where needed, involves only routine skill in the art.

The specific spot size needed in order to achieve a desired result in laser ablation/laser desorption is common and well known to somebody of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the Applicants claimed invention. For prior art disclosure that shows a desirability to change the spot size, see Williams et al. (USPN '870) which shows that changing the laser spot size on a target changes the laser power density at the target surface in laser ablation system. Further, a spot size that spans a specific range deems adjustment dependant on the desired outcome which one wishes to achieve.

Claim 46-49

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show wherein said contraband substance comprises an explosive, an organo-nitro explosive compound or inorganic nitrate salt, a narcotic, or a chemical agent. Megerle shows that it is known to provide a contraband substance comprising an explosive, an organo-nitro explosive (List of Explosive Materials), a narcotic, or a chemical agent (abstract) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the security system for detecting an explosive, a narcotic, or a chemical agent of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Claims 50-52

Official notice taken. It is the position of the Office that Pyrolysis electrochemical detectors and surface ionization detectors are common detectors in the field of contraband detection and in combination with the recited limitations of claim 36 do not distinguish patentability over prior art disclosure. Therefore, Applicant will be appreciated that the

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reference of Sebastian in view of Megerle reads on the claimed limitations. Sebastian discloses the use of GC/IMS detectors (col. 13, line 63-col. 14, line 6).

Claim 53

Sebastian in view of Megerle discloses an apparatus wherein said optical system comprises at least one deflecting optical component and means for imparting motion thereto, the motion of said deflecting optical component changing the location at which said beam impinges on said surface, thereby extending said interrogation zone (col. 4, line 60-col. 5, line 9).

Claim 54 & 55

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show an apparatus further comprising translation means adapted to move said object. Megerle shows that it is known to provide translation means adapted to move said object (Fig. 9) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the relative motion of said object of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Claim 56

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show an apparatus further comprising moving said object on a conveyer belt. Megerle shows that it is known to provide moving said object on a conveyer belt (Fig. 9) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the relative motion of said object of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside

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Claim 57

Sebastian in view of Megerle discloses an apparatus wherein said beam of light is raster scanned over said extended interrogation zone (Sebastian, col. 5, lines 6-8).

Claim 58

Sebastian in view of Megerle discloses further comprising a computer operably connected to said detector, said drive motor, and said translation means. Sebastian discloses a computer display terminal associated with said computer (Fig. 9, 3), said computer being adapted to control the operation of said drive motor and said translation means. Sebastian discloses said computer further being adapted to display on said computer display terminal a mapping representative of the positions on said surface at which said contraband substance is detected (col. 9, line 37-col. 10, line 37).

Claim 59 & 61

It is obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to detect contraband while maintaining an intensity and duration of said illumination that is not sufficient to cause substantial deflagration or detonation of said substance present on said surface in order to insure the safety of those performing the analyzations.

To clarify the record further, Examiner realizes that in some circumstances it is a desirable result to detonate explosive residues in order to produce a detectable result, at the same time, it is common sense to do so maintaining the safety of those performing the analyzation. It is the position of the Office that it still is obvious to illuminate contraband at an intensity and duration “that is not sufficient to cause **substantial** deflagration or detonation of said substance present on said surface”.

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Claims 60 & 62

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show wherein said explosive agent comprises a plastic explosive. Megerle shows that it is known to provide a explosive agent comprises a plastic explosive (col. 3, line 28-36) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the security system for detecting plastic explosives of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

Claims 63-66

Official notice taken. It is the position of the Office that FIS, gas-phase infrared, and photo acoustic detectors are common detectors in the field of contraband detection and in combination with the recited limitations of claim 36 do not distinguish patentability over prior art disclosure. Therefore, Applicant will be appreciated that the reference of Sebastian in view of Megerle reads on the claimed limitations. Sebastian discloses the use of GC/IMS detectors (col. 13, line 63-col. 14, line 6).

Claims 67 & 68

Sebastian substantially teaches the claimed invention except that it fails to show wherein said explosive agent comprises an inorganic nitrate salt explosive agent. Megerle shows that it is known to provide an explosive agent comprising an inorganic nitrate salt (List of Explosive Materials) for a security system. It would have been obvious to someone of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Sebastian with the security system for detecting an explosive, a narcotic, or a chemical agent of Megerle for the purposes of providing protection from outside threats.

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Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 14-18, 21, 22, 38-42, 44, & 45 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

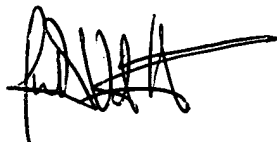
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Juan D Valentin II whose telephone number is (571) 272-2433.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th., Every other Fr..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Juan D Valentin II
Examiner 2877

JDV

February 27, 2004



Michael P. Stafira
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